



DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2023

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DEA: Social Media used for “Last Mile” in Fentanyl Trafficking

State proposal seeks to curb drug dealer access to children

Madison, WI – In a recent [appearance](#) on “Meet the Press,” head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration, Anne Milgram, declared social media as “the place to start” when it comes to combatting America’s fentanyl crisis. Milgram cited the alarming rate at which Americans are dying from fentanyl poisoning—noting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that last year over 110,000 Americans died from fentanyl and methamphetamine poisoning and that fentanyl alone claims the lives of roughly 200 Americans every day.

Milgram went on to detail the central role that social media plays in trafficking this lethal drug, explaining that once the fentanyl has made it into the US, social media acts as the “last mile” for distribution. Social media works as the platform for advertisement, reaching Americans at massive rates where pills can be purchased. Milgram called on social media platforms to better comply with their own terms of service, cooperate with law enforcement, and do everything they can to get drugs off their platforms.

State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) has authored Wisconsin’s Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA) to address many of the harms being perpetuated on social media, particularly the rampant illegal and harmful activity that targets minors.

“The sophisticated drug cartels are operating in plain sight on social media, targeting and killing Americans every single day. Even more heartbreaking, our kids and teens are amongst those targets, purchasing and consuming--often fake--pills that rob them of their precious lives. I remain committed to reforming social media in Wisconsin to protect our children from the types of direct messaging, advertising and overnight predation that prey on our kids,” said Rep. Steffen.

The Kids Online Safety Act is currently being circulated for co-sponsorship support and will likely be scheduled for a public hearing in the fall.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or by email at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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